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CONTOURED ACRES

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U. S. Department of Agriculture



THIS IS STRAIGHT-ROW, UP AND DOWN THE SLOPE FARMING.

Each row, each cultivator mark forms a **channel** for erosion. Water, fertilizer, and topsoil are washed off the land.

CROP YIELDS ARE REDUCED.



THIS IS CONTOUR FARMING—farming around the slope; farming on the level.

Each row, and other tillage marks form small catchment areas. Water, fertilizer, and topsoil are held on the land.

CROP YIELDS ARE INCREASED.



SOIL ON THE MOVE MEANS WASTE.

As erosion drains off fertility, it gnaws into sloping land, leaving gullies in its wake.

In the process of soil movement, valuable plant food is carried away. Crop production is reduced.



WE NEED **MORE** OF THE RIGHT KINDS OF FOOD TO WIN THE WAR.

A soldier eats almost twice as much as the average civilian.

War workers require more food too—good, nutritious food, vitamin-packed to keep up their production strength.



IF ALL U. S. CROPLAND WERE FARMED ON THE CONTOUR, we could feed a great many more soldiers without plowing an extra acre of land.



CONTOURED CORNFIELDS PRODUCED 23 BUSHEL MORE CORN per acre than adjacent noncontoured fields . . . Iowa farmers report.

CORN IS GOING TO WAR in the form of **BEEF**, **DAIRY**, **PORK**, and **POULTRY** products.



CONTOUR FARMING INCREASED SOYBEAN YIELDS 6.2 BUSHEL PER ACRE . . . Illinois farmers report.

SOYBEANS AND PEANUTS ARE GOING TO WAR, providing oil for cooking, soap, medicine, gas-mask bags, dynamite, and gasproof capes.



CONTOURING BOOSTED POTATO YIELDS 44 BUSHELS per acre . . . report New York farmers.

POTATOES ARE A MAIN ITEM OF DIET for our expanding armed forces and our war-working civilians.



WHEAT YIELDS AVERAGED 4 BUSHEL PER ACRE HIGHER on the contoured than on noncontoured fields . . . reports from the southern Great Plains show.

WHEAT IS STILL THE STAFF OF LIFE. It is an important item in the soldier's diet—he eats half a loaf a day. Wheat is being converted into milk, meat, and eggs through livestock feeding. By increasing yields, we will free additional acreage for the production of other war crops.



COTTON YIELDS AVERAGED 29 POUNDS MORE PER ACRE ON THE CONTOUR than from fields that were farmed up and down the hill ... Texas farmers report.

COTTON, ESPECIALLY THE LONGER STAPLE, IS FILLING MANY WARTIME USES. It is used in making **SHELLS, STRONG WATER-REPELLENT FABRICS, PARATROOP UNIFORMS, PARACHUTE HARNESS, LIFE RAFTS, TENTS, AND AIRPLANE WING COVERINGS.**



CONTOURING IS EASY TO DO. IT DOESN'T REQUIRE NEW MACHINERY. LAY OUT THE CONTOURS AROUND THE SLOPE, AND FARM ON THE LEVEL.

SAVES LABOR, FUEL.

ON THE CONTOUR—

13 PERCENT MORE LAND WAS PLOWED, with 10 PERCENT LESS TRACTOR FUEL than by plowing up and down hill . . . tests in Kansas showed.

With a wartime labor shortage, any TIME-SAVING method CONTRIBUTES TO THE WAR EFFORT.



LOWER PRODUCTION COSTS.

CONTOUR FARMING REDUCED—

MAN-LABOR COSTS 95 CENTS AN ACRE, HORSE AND MACHINERY COSTS 25 CENTS AN ACRE, TOTAL FARM EXPENSES 72 CENTS AN ACRE, below costs on similar farms that were not contoured . . . a group of Illinois farmers report.



YOU NEED CONTOURING TO MEET YOUR
FOOD-PRODUCTION GOALS.



HE NEEDS FOOD TO MEET THE ENEMY.

SOME NOTES ON CONTOURING

CONTOURING is easy to do on most slopes. It is helpful on land with only a slight slope. It should be supported by good farming methods, crop residues, strip cropping, and sometimes terraces.

It does mean removing old fence and field boundaries in many cases. Erosion doesn't stop at property lines; neither should contouring and other conservation methods. **After it is established, contouring not only saves time, fuel, and labor but it also saves wear and tear on equipment.** Contouring alone is not enough on steep hills or some types of soil.

The examples of yield increases given in this publication are not isolated cases. Contouring increases yields for virtually all crops in areas where contour farming is practicable. AAA payments can be earned for contouring intertilled crops, contour listing on cropland and contour furrowing of non-cropland, contour seeding of small grain crops, sorghums, millets, soybeans or peas, and contour strip cropping.

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